

US APPLN. NO. 09/981,025
AMENDMENT

REMARKS

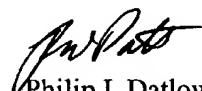
Claims 1-16, 21-27 and 29-32 are pending.

Claim 28 has been cancelled and claims 29 and 30 have been amended accordingly to make them proper dependent claims. Entry of these amendments after final is believed proper since it places the present application in immediate condition for allowance.

Claim 28 was rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph and claims 29-31 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim (claim 28). In view of the cancellation of claim 28 and the corresponding amendments to dependent claims 29-30 to make these claims properly dependent upon claim 1 (claim 31 is properly dependent upon claim 29), the rejection and objection are rendered moot, and withdrawal thereof is therefore respectfully requested.

It is believed by applicants' attorney that the present application is in condition for allowance and early notification thereof is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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